

With updates from the Indiana State Department of Agriculture

The Harvest *TIMES*



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Lt. Governor
Becky Skillman



Agriculture Director
Andy Miller

Farm Safety

***Be Patient and Kind
Stay Behind***

Volume I Issue 2

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State unveiled first Biotown, U.S.A.



On Sept. 13, Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels introduced the state's inaugural effort toward creating communities where all energy needs are met through use of biorenewable resources.

Reynolds, the first BioTown , USA , will showcase the feasibility of existing and future technologies in utilizing agricultural products and their by-products as fuel, electricity and heating sources.

"BioTown, USA is an aggressive plan that I believe will become a model for rural communities throughout our state and country," said Governor Daniels. "We are taking challenges and turning them into opportunities by developing homegrown, local energy production to become independent from foreign sources; creating a cleaner environment; finding new solutions to animal waste management issues; and developing new markets

Lt. Governor Skillman and Indiana ag officials remind all Hoosiers to be patient and mindful of farm safety during the fall harvest.

"Each year more than 700 farmers die nationwide in work-related accidents," said Lt. Governor Skillman. "From the many moving parts of equipment to driving slow moving vehicles on highways, there are many hazards."

Last year, 16 people died in farm related accidents in Indiana. The majority of these farming deaths were tractor-related accidents and roadway collisions. Tractors and farm equipment must move along roadways, especially in the spring and fall, and impatient drivers can cause accidents.

To bring more attention to the problem of farm roadway safety, Joan Hysong, Boone County Farm Bureau president, along with Joyce Hysong, Rebecca Arrick, Chris Hiland, also of Boone County, created a green magnetic vehicle ribbon with the words, "Be patient and kind – stay behind" and an orange bumper sticker with the same message. They started the program after a local farmer was killed on State Road 39 while operating a tractor. Proceeds from the sale of the magnets and bumper stickers go toward a scholarship fund at a local high school.

"I'm proud of the efforts of the Boone County group to

for Indiana agricultural products and by-products."

Biotown, USA is a project of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture that fits into their Strategic plan under the Bioenergy strategy. The action plan for this strategy calls for the development of a pilot community that meets all of its energy needs through biorenewable resources.

Long Term Expectations:

The long term expectation of the Biotown Project is to completely meet all the energy needs of Reynolds via biorenewable resources, including electricity, natural gas replacement and vehicular fuel. Meeting the energy needs of this town with renewable sources will be the first of its kind in the world, while using environmentally friendly technologies that will convert animal and human waste to biogas, which translates into energy.

Short Term Goals:

- Install E85 fuel pumps at area fueling stations
- Provide the opportunity for Reynolds residents to convert their vehicles to E85 compatible
- ISDA is working with GM to get more flex fuel vehicles in Reynolds
- Make B20 (20 percent soy biodiesel) readily available to area diesel users.

"Our goal is to make Indiana a leader in the future of agriculture, and to do that, we must be progressive in advancing new uses for our products and finding more environmentally-friendly ways to dispose of our by-products," said Indiana Agriculture Director Andy Miller. "Not only does this project move our bioenergy goals forward, it aids in our efforts to grow our livestock industry since our responsibility to the environment is closely linked to that strategy."

The residents of Reynolds are excited about the BioTown USA program. On the day of the unveiling, nearly 300 residents enjoyed a complimentary pork breakfast and received a free gallon of ethanol-blended fuel or

bring the important topic of farm safety to everyone's attention," said Skillman.

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Hoosier Homestead Program



Lt. Governor Skillman and the Indiana State Department of Agriculture encourage farmers and land owners to apply for the Hoosier Homestead award.

The Hoosier Homestead award honors families who have owned their farm for over 100 years, 150 years and 200 years.

To qualify, applicants must fill out the ISDA information form and provide documentation to prove ownership.

In the upcoming fall ceremony on Oct. 26, Indiana will honor over 40 applicants, two of which will be recognized for their Bicentennial Farm, that has stayed in their family for over 200 years. Each year, the Department of Agriculture hosts a spring and fall ceremony.

If you are interested in applying for the Hoosier Homestead award, please email Meggie Issler, program coordinator at

soybiodiesel. During a town-hall style meeting, Miller and ISDA's BioTown, USA Project Coordinator Ryan West provided a detailed overview of the project and answered audience questions.

To cap off the day, a crowd of more than 300 met Governor Daniels in his RV-1, powered by soybiodiesel. The Governor also stayed after the announcement to talk with residents and local school children.

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Indiana signs Taiwan trade agreement

On Sept. 17, Lt. Governor Becky Skillman and Agriculture Director Andy Miller welcomed a 12-member Taiwanese Agricultural Goodwill Mission to Indiana where they signed an agreement to purchase Hoosier-grown corn and soybeans.

"The goal of the Indiana trade mission to Asia was clear; bring home new opportunities to Hoosiers. Today we are making our first victory," said Lt. Governor Skillman. "We have been very aggressive in our approach to attracting new jobs and development to Indiana. Growing agriculture beyond our state and national borders is one important element of state's economic recovery. The agreement signed with Taiwan officials is symbolic of the progress we are and will continue to make."

The Taiwan Feed Industry Association and the Taiwan Vegetable Oil Manufacturers' Association of the Republic of China and the Indiana Corn Marketing Council and Indiana Soybean Board signed the agreement to purchase a substantial amount of Indiana corn and soybeans.

Since 1998, Taiwan has embarked on four agricultural trade goodwill missions, importing 1.26 billion bushels of U.S. corn worth \$3.3 billion as a result. Indiana was added to this year's mission after the 78-member Hoosier delegation visited Taiwan in August.

"The Indiana State Department of Agriculture identified international trade in our strategic plan as critically important to the long-term economic health and prosperity of our food and agricultural sector," said Indiana Agriculture Director

missler@isda.in.gov.

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ISDA Open House

The Indiana State Department of Agriculture invited state officials, commodity group leaders, ag businesses and Hoosier farmers in for an open house on Sept. 22.

From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., a crowd of nearly 80 visitors enjoyed food and conversation in the new office of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture.

If you missed the open house, but would like a tour of the new office, please contact Meggie Issler at missler@isda.in.gov.

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Andy Miller. "The Taiwanese delegation's visit to Indiana and the purchase agreement signed today are examples of trade policies that support our rural and farm economies."

During their trip to Indiana, the Taiwanese delegation made their first stop at the Bunge North America soybean processing facility in Morristown. The group then moved to Cherry Farms in Greenfield where they signed the agreement and had lunch with Indiana state officials, commodity organization leaders and Indiana farmers.

The Cherry family raises corn, soybeans and hay and also operate a feed and trailer sales business.

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Indiana counties play key role in future of agriculture

The Indiana State Department of Agriculture is working with nine southwestern Indiana counties to get them thinking about agriculture's future in their community.

"We are making agriculture a key part of our state's economic revitalization," said Agriculture Director Andy Miller. "But agricultural economic development begins at the local level – with Indiana's rural communities. Farming operations and agribusinesses are just the start. Economically, agriculture has a multiplier effect; the ripples of one agribusiness are multiplied four times across the community. But when did you last think about farming as a business that should be included in your communities' economic development plan?"

One key action of ISDA's strategic plan is to help local communities fit agriculture into the framework of their future economic development plans.

To assist in this process, ISDA has developed a consulting group to work with county and regional leaders in determining agriculture's place in each county's future.

"We know that land use and land plan are local decisions, and this department respects the role of the local community," said Miller. "Our goal is start each community talking about agriculture now, before one project divides a community as we've seen in other parts of the state."

Southwestern Indiana is the pilot area for this new concept. For the next six months ISDA's consulting group will work with local officials in Dubois, Gibson, Knox, Perry, Pike, Posey, Spencer, Vanderburgh and Warrick counties on where agriculture fits in their economic development plans.

The consulting team will then work with county-level local economic development organizations to identify local action teams of five to seven individuals to be a part of regional planning efforts. Ideally these teams will represent economic development, agriculture, Purdue Extension and elected local officials.

While ISDA's consulting team will work with each group to provide tools and assistance, the local group itself will chose the initiatives on which they want to focus. The goal is to take the concept statewide over the next two years.

"This is a new concept for many counties, and we appreciate that local leaders in our pilot area are excited about working with us," said Miller. "For too long, Indiana has taken agriculture for granted as part of the fabric of our communities. We cannot continue to passively accept agriculture. We want to initiate local discussions about agriculture's part in each community's future."

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Miller announces new leadership for Division of Soil



Indiana Agriculture Director Andy Miller named Tammy Lawson as Director of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture's Division of Soil Conservation. Jerod Chew was named as the Division's Assistant Director.

"Tammy provided strong leadership to the Division of Soil Conservation this summer in spearheading its move into our department and serving as interim director," said Miller. "She participated in the strategic planning process for the Indiana Conservation Partnership and the Division of Soil Conservation, and she has a firm grasp of where our

conservation efforts should be directed in our state. Jerod brings his technical background and experience from the field into his new role in the central office to support the whole division."

In the past several weeks, Lawson toured the state talking to members of the conservation community about the reorganization of the Division of Soil Conservation. The new structure focuses on strengthening conservation efforts at the local level. The goal is to improve efficiency by complimenting the structure of Indiana's other conservation partners, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service and the local Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

The Division will expand the number of district support specialists from four to eight people to cover eight regions of the state. These regions are the same as NRCS's eight Tech Team regions, giving NRCS and the Division complimentary structures. There will also be eight resource specialist team leaders to work with NRCS's tech team leaders in coordinating job assignments in the field between the two agencies' staff.

The goal is to provide seamless structure where state and federal staff can provide technical support on the local level. The reorganization reduces central office staff, focusing the resources outward. In total, there will be 30 resource specialists in the field statewide including eight team leaders and eight district support specialists. Only six staff members will be located in the central office.

Lawson has been with ISDA since January, serving as Director of Industry Relations and Regulatory Affairs, where she has been involved with the Indiana Conservation Partnership. Prior to her work at ISDA, Lawson was Chair of the USDA Farm Service Agency's State Committee, where she provided leadership to FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs. She also worked with USDA NRCS, coordinating Comprehensive Nutrient Management Program training. Lawson also has experience with implementing producer educational programs for farming and conservation practices through a variety of agricultural organizations.

Lawson is a graduate of Purdue University with a Bachelors of Science in Agricultural Economics. She and her husband Donnie own a farm in Thorntown, where they live with their two children, Kay Leigh and Clay.

Jerod Chew takes on new responsibilities within the Division of Soil Conservation as he becomes the Assistant Director. Chew has been with the Division for more than 4 years, where he has served as a resource specialist and stormwater specialist. Chew brings experience in the implementation of conservation practices and his relationship with many of the conservation partners. Chew is a graduate of Indiana State University with a Bachelor of Science in Life Science with an Ecology emphasis. He currently lives in Bloomington with his wife Amy and son Keaton.

"This is great news for Indiana's 92 Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the state association," said Gene Weaver, IASWCD President. "Tammy has been our biggest supporter since the new administration took office. Conservation is first and foremost with her, as is strengthening Districts to serve Indiana's rural and urban communities," Weaver added.

Jane Hardisty, State Conservationist for USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, said, "We have worked with Tammy as she served a number of roles and capacities over the last several years, and we know her to be a very capable leader. She has been heavily involved in shaping the new State Department of Agriculture and its partnership with NRCS."

Lawson and Chew began new duties on September 19.

<http://www.in.gov/isda>

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The Indiana State Department of Agriculture was created in April of 2005 to advance our state's food and agriculture system. ISDA has two main goals: to make agriculture a key part of the state's economic comeback and to establish Indiana as a leader in the global agricultural economy. Our vision is for Indiana to be a global center for food and agriculture innovation and commercialization.

[Lt. Governor Becky Skillman](#) | [Indiana State Department of Agriculture](#)